

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ for the unipolar ablation of heart tissue with

an electrically conductive tube electrically insulated on its outer surface, with an electrical connector on the proximal end of the tube which is electrically conductively connected to said tube, with a rinse connection on the proximal end of the tube which is in communication with a lumen of the tube and with

an electrode mounted into the distal end of the tube which is connected electrically conductively to the tube and which features at least one discharge opening which is in communication with the lumen of the tube, wherein ~~characterized thereby that~~

the tube is a rigid shaft tube (20) and that the electrode (14) is connected detachably with the distal end of the shaft tube (20).

2. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 1, wherein

~~thereby characterized that~~

the electrode (14) is connected to the shaft tube (20) by means of an axial plug-in detent.

3. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~thereby characterized that~~ the electrode (14) is coaxially inserted into the distal end of the shaft tube (20) axially contacting a stop establishing the electrical contact with the shaft tube (20) and wherein ~~that~~ an electrically insulating electrode ferrule (38) which surrounds the electrode (14) is snapped onto the shaft tube (20) and holds the electrode (14) in the stop position on the shaft tube (20).
4. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 3, wherein ~~thereby characterized that~~ the electrode ferrule (38) coaxially overlaps the insulating cladding (22) of the shaft tube (20) in part and snaps on by means of a radial groove (26) and a corresponding detent (40).
5. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 3 ~~or 5~~, wherein ~~thereby characterized that~~ the electrode (14) inserted coaxially into the distal end of the shaft tube (20) contacts the distal end of the shaft tube (20) axially with its external collar (30).
6. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 5, wherein

~~thereby characterized that~~ the electrode ferrule (38) features an internal collar (42) which distally contacts the external collar (30) of the electrode (14) and which secures the electrode (14) axially contacting to the shaft tube (20).

7. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the previous claims~~ ~~thereby characterized that~~ the electrode (14) is constituted as a cylindrical part closing the lumen of the shaft tube (20) which features a proximal blind hole (32) which is open to the lumen of the shaft tube (20) in which at least one radial discharge opening (34) extends radially from the circumflex of the electrode (14) into the blind hole (32).
8. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 7, wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule (38) which surrounds the electrode (14) is snapped onto the shaft tube (20) and holds the electrode (14) in the stop position on the shaft tube (20), wherein ~~thereby characterized that~~ between the outer surface of the electrode (14) and the distal end of the electrode ferrule (38) an annular gap (44) remains open in the distal direction, and wherein ~~that~~ at least one discharge opening (34) meets with this annular gap (44).

9. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to Claim 1, wherein that an electrically insulating electrode ferrule (38) which surrounds the electrode (14) is snapped onto the shaft tube (20) and holds the electrode (14) in the stop position on the shaft tube (20), and wherein one of the previous claims thereby characterized that the electrode ferrule features a radially enlarged flange (46) on its distal end which limits the insertion depth of the tip of the electrode (14) which protrudes from the flange (46) in the distal direction.
10. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to Claim 1, wherein one of the previous claims ~~thereby characterized that~~ a handle (12) made from plastic is located at the proximal end of the shaft tube (20).
11. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim 10, wherein thereby characterized that the handle (12) is in the form of a pen grip and is directly molded onto the shaft tube (20).
12. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to claim claims 10 or 11, wherein ~~thereby characterized that~~ the handle (12) and the cladding (22) of the shaft tube (20) consist of the same material.

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13. (currently amended) An instrument ~~Instrument~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the previous claims~~ ~~thereby characterized that~~ the distal end of the shaft tube (20) with the electrode (14) is angled between approximately 30° and 45° with respect to the centerline of the shaft tube (20).